

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the subject patent application, with the status of each claim being indicated in a parenthetical expression. Claims 5 and 6 being currently amended are set forth below with markings showing the changes made relative to the immediate prior version. Claim 7 not being currently amended and claims 13-16 being newly presented herewith are set forth below in clean version.

Claims 1-4 and 8-12 are herewith being cancelled.

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a surgical procedure on a patient comprising the steps of

treating tissue of the patient with an elongate blade assembly formed of a first elongate outer tubular member having a first configuration and a distal end with an opening therein and an inner elongate member rotatably disposed in the first outer member and having a cutting tip disposed adjacent the opening in the distal end of the first outer member, the outer and inner members having proximal ends adapted to be received in removably attached to a handpiece such that rotates the inner member is ~~rotated~~ within the first outer member to cause the cutting tip of the inner member to contact and treat tissue at the opening in the distal end of the first outer member;

detaching the blade assembly from the handpiece and removing the inner member from the first outer member during the surgical procedure on the patient;

inserting the inner member in a second elongate outer tubular member having a second configuration different from the first configuration and a distal end with an

opening therein such that the ~~tissue-treating distal end~~ cutting tip of the inner member is disposed adjacent the opening in the distal end of the second outer member; and

attaching the proximal ends of the inner member and the second outer member to the handpiece; and

continuing to treat ~~treating~~ tissue of the patient during the surgical procedure by ~~contact~~ rotating the inner member within the second outer member and contacting the tissue with the cutting tip of the inner member at the opening in the distal end of the second outer member.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 5 wherein the first outer member has a first longitudinal configuration and the second outer member has a second longitudinal configuration different from the first longitudinal configuration.

7. (Original) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 5 wherein the first outer member has a first distal end configuration and the second outer member has a second distal end configuration different from the first distal end configuration.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 6 wherein one of the first or second longitudinal configurations is a straight longitudinal

configuration, and the other of the first or second longitudinal configurations is an angled longitudinal configuration.

14. (New) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 6 wherein one of the first or second longitudinal configurations is an angled longitudinal configuration, and the other of the first or second longitudinal configurations is a different angled longitudinal configuration.

15. (New) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 7 wherein the first and second distal end configurations are different from one another in the configuration of the openings at the distal ends of the first and second outer members.

16. (New) A method of performing a surgical procedure as recited in claim 7 wherein the first and second outer members having cutting edges adjacent the openings at the distal ends of the first and second outer members, and the first and second distal end configurations are different from one another in the configuration of the cutting edges.

